



INDIANA EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Family Engagement Workgroup

Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: June 20, 2014

MEMBERS

Kevin Bain

Melanie Brizzi

Charlie Geier

Beckie Minglin

Tammy Veselsky

Alonzo Weems

ADVISORY MEMBERS

John Burnett

Connie Sherman

Attendees:

Chris Whitmire, Keith Reissaus, Sharon Pierce, Jen Drake, Deanna Wilkerson, Anita Allison, Nathan Williamson, Wylie Sirk, Debbie Beeler, Jennifer Mohr, Deborah Chubb

Key Topics Discussed:

1. Tutorial of Wiggio
2. Review of Workgroup Framework
3. Discussion of Joyce Epstein's work on parent engagement
4. NC PIE: A group in process of becoming incorporated (National Coalition of Parents in Education)
5. Some parents want to help but don't know how
6. Teacher/parent communication is extremely important!
7. HeadStart Family Engagement Presentation (by Anita)
 - Family Engagement needs to be individualized
 - HeadStart emphasizes *partnership agreements* with parents to be involved in their children's education
 - Child growth and development measured by: Children with parents who engage in family activities vs. children with parents who do not
 - Teacher home visits are required
8. Child Plus is the tracking system for outcome data
9. Discussion of Workgroup recommendations for June 30th ELAC Report

Key Questions Raised:

1. How do we change the problem of schools not making parents feel welcome?
2. How can teachers create "homework" that parents can help with? What are some examples?
3. What are the key elements to an effective family engagement framework? (Consider vision, mission, goals, legislation)

Action Steps:

1. Karen Ruprecht will research QRAS models for family engagement
2. Kyle will ask Melanie about a FSSA representative for the group
3. Each workgroup member has been assigned a State (State assignments uploaded to Wiggio) in which to investigate family engagement. Findings will be filtered through the 3 primary responsibilities of the established

ELAC Family Engagement Workgroup Framework:

1. Establish a Family Engagement Framework, including training and tools for programs that increases family engagement in a child's education.
2. Transition supports for families
3. Develop a family-friendly version of the Early Learning Guidelines and tool(s) to understand assessment results.



**Members have been asked to put their findings in 3 columns, or separate in some way for easier discussion and visualization at next meeting.*

Next Meeting

Date: 3rd Friday of every month, 12pm-2pm (a working lunch)

Location: Goodwill/NFP, 5901 Lakeside Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46278

Conference # 877-219-9314, code 787-694-3606

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